



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
5109 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH VA 22041-3258



DASG-PPM-NC

20 MAY 2002

MEMORANDUM FOR

Commanders, MEDCOM Major Subordinate Commands
Commander, 18th MEDCOM

SUBJECT: Updated Policy on Tetanus Vaccine Use

1. References:

- a. AR 40-562. Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis, 1 November 1995.
- b. Memorandum, OTSG, DASG-PPM-NC, Subject: Tetanus Vaccine Shortage, 4 Jun 01.
- c. USAMMA. MMQC-02-1152, Vaccines - Immunization policies and supply availability information alert update, 031920Z May 2002.
- d. USAMMA. MMI-02-4008, Vaccine reporting requirements action alert, 232040Z April 2002.
- e. CDC. Notice to Readers: Recommended childhood immunization schedule--United States, 2002. MMWR 2002;51(02):31-33.
- f. CDC. Notice to Readers. Update: Supply of tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine. MMWR 2002;50(51):1159.
- g. CDC. Notice to Readers. Deferral of routine booster doses of tetanus and diphtheria toxoids for adolescents and adults. MMWR 2001;50(20):418,427.

2. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updated guidance on the use of adult vaccines containing tetanus toxoid. For the use of pediatric vaccines, refer to references 1e and 1f. This guidance supersedes reference 1b.

3. Vaccines containing tetanus and diphtheria (Td) toxoids remain in short supply. However, this shortage is expected to resolve before the end of 2002. Aventis Pasteur (AP), the US producer of Td, expanded production and will distribute increased supplies as they become available to eliminate existing shortages during 2002. As part of this expansion, AP acknowledges it currently has sufficient supplies to provide the adult formulation of tetanus-diphtheria (Td) toxoid to new military accessions. Accordingly, effective 1 June 2002, Td toxoid will be administered to all new enlisted and officer accessions (including West Point cadets) and

to ROTC cadets attending summer camps in the U.S., in accordance with paragraphs 15 and 16 of AR 40-562 (ref 1a, above).

4. Sufficient stocks are available, effective 1 June 2002, to provide Td for all beneficiaries in the following categories:

a. Persons traveling to countries where the risk for diphtheria is high. This includes DOD travelers and individuals who are deployed to specified countries. Countries with high risk for diphtheria according to the US Centers for Disease Control include:

Africa -- Algeria, Egypt, and sub-Saharan Africa

Americas -- Brazil, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Haiti

Asia/Oceania -- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Syria, Thailand, Turkey, Vietnam, and Yemen

Europe -- Albania and all countries of the former Soviet Union

b. Persons requiring tetanus vaccination for prophylaxis in wound management. All medical treatment facilities, both garrison and deployed, must maintain sufficient Td or Tetanus Toxoid stocks to treat anticipated emergencies.

c. Persons who have received < 3 doses of vaccine containing Td.

d. Pregnant women and persons at occupational risk for tetanus-prone injuries who have not been vaccinated with Td within 10 years.

e. Military personnel with orders to deploy as part of Combatant Commander-directed operations.

f. New officer and enlisted accessions (including West Point cadets).

g. ROTC cadets attending summer camps in the U.S.

5. MEDCOM units and activities will defer routine vaccination in the following populations:

a. Adolescents who have not been vaccinated with a vaccine containing Td within 10 years.

b. Adults who have not been vaccinated with Td within 10 years. This includes recent officer and enlisted accessions that were previously deferred and other active duty personnel not specified in paragraph 4.

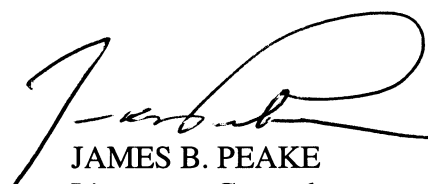
6. Reinstatement of routine vaccination and administration to deferred personnel will not begin until later this year. This office will provide additional guidance when supplies are sufficient to vaccinate beneficiaries in paragraph 5 above.

DASG-PPM-NC

SUBJECT: Updated Policy on Tetanus Vaccine Use

7. Army activities will order Td toxoid IAW reference 1c (or subsequent updates) and continue to report weekly stock status of Td toxoid IAW reference 1d (or subsequent updates).

8. My point of contact for this action is COL Jeffrey Gunzenhauser in the Proponency Office for Preventive Medicine, email Jeffrey.Gunzenhauser@otsg.amedd.army.mil, DSN 761-3160, comm. 703-681-3160.



JAMES B. PEAKE
Lieutenant General
The Surgeon General

CF:

HQDA (DASG-PPM-NC), 5109 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3258

TRADOC (ATMD), 7 Fenwick Road, Fort Monroe, VA 23651-5000

FORSCOM (FCMD), 1777 Hardee Ave, S.W., Fort McPherson, GA 30330-1062

AMC (AMCSG) 5001 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22333

ATEC, Park Center IV, 4501 Ford Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301-1458

ARCENT (AFRD-MD), 1881 Hardee Avenue, Fort McPherson, GA 30330

USARSO (SOMD), Bldg. 1314, Ft Buchanan, PR 00934-3400

USASOC (AOMD), Fort Bragg NC 28307-5200

USARC, (AFRC-MD), 1401 Deshler St, S.W., Fort McPherson, GA 30330-2000

NGB, (NGB-ARS), 111 South George Mason Dr, Arlington, VA 22204-1382